

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 IO-13 /092 W
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R 150745Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7959
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GE, GW
SUBJECT: GDR MEDIA TREATMENT OF FILBINGER'S RESIGNATION

1. GDR MEDIA HAVE GIVEN MAJOR TREATMENT TO THE FILBINGER CASE, TAKING THE LINE THAT "THE FILBINGER CASE IS THE CASE OF THE FRG." THE EAST GERMAN PRESS SOMETIMES REFERS TO THE FRG AS A "FILBINGER STATE" WHICH THE PRESS DESCRIBES AS A HAVEN FOR "200,000 NAZI WAR CRIMINALS WHO UNTIL NOW HAVE LIVED UNDISTURBED IN THE FRG AND HOLD HIGH POSITIONS IN THE BONN STATE, IN JUSTICE, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS." THE GDR PRESS ATTACKS HAVE NOT RELENDED, DESPITE FILBINGER'S RESIGNATION.
2. A VIVID EXAMPLE OF THE PRESS TREATMENT HAS BEEN IN THE MAGDEBURG PAPERS WHICH HAVE EXHORTED THEIR READERS TO CONFRONT THEIR VISITING FRG RELATIVES WITH THESE

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FACTS AND TO USE THE OCCASION OF FAMILY VISITS FROM THE WEST FOR AGGRESSIVE POLITICAL SERMONIZING.

3. COMMENT: THE FILBINGER CASE HAS GIVEN THE GDR MEDIA A MADE-TO-ORDER PROPAGANDA STORY ON A SILVER PLATTER. THE COVERAGE HAS BEEN ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS THAT GIVEN THE KAPPLER AFFAIR OR OTHER EVENTS IN THE

FRG WHICH THE GDR CONSIDERS TO BE OF A NEO-NAZI
CHARACTER. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE FILBINGER CAMPAIGN
MARKS ANY CHANGE IN GDR POLICY VIS-A-VIS THE
FRG. END COMMENT. BOLEN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 15 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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